



**Homeland
Security**

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report

14 September 2012

Top Stories

- U.S. nuclear arms operations face greater defensive vulnerabilities and a higher potential for accidents due to how federal agencies oversee contractors that manage atomic sites, a new report found. – *Global Security Newswire* (See item [7](#))
- The U.S. Secretary of State took strong steps September 13 to distance the U.S. Government from a movie that has sparked protests and violence throughout the Muslim world, and has spread to at least five countries. – *Washington Post* (See item [23](#))
- The developer of the Blackhole exploit kit released a new version that makes it more difficult to blacklist URLs pointing to Web sites containing malware, security experts said. – *CSO Online* (See item [31](#))
- At least \$3 million in damage was done to businesses, homes, streets, and a dike, after heavy rains caused an earthen dike to collapse, sending a three-foot wall of water into Santa Clara, Utah. – *Salt Lake Tribune* (See item [39](#))

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Energy Sector

1. ***September 12, Associated Press*** – (California) **Feds: Pipe wall in refinery fire was thin as penny.** A corroded pipe that failed and triggered a leak and massive fire at one of California's largest refineries had walls as thin as a penny in some areas, federal investigators said. U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) officials said September 12 that a key part of their probe into the fire at the plant in Richmond is why Chevron Corp. did not replace the pipe during a routine inspection a year ago. The board previously found Chevron inspected and replaced a larger, corroded 12-inch pipe connected to the smaller one that failed August 6. "We have obtained internal Chevron policies that recommend that every segment of pipe in this service should have been included in the pipe inspection program," said the lead investigator for the CSB. "There is no indication that this segment of pipe was inspected for thickness during the most recent" inspections. The blaze at the San Francisco Bay area facility knocked an important refinery unit offline, reducing production. Gas prices on the West Coast have surpassed \$4 a gallon since the fire. In addition, smoke from the blaze sent thousands of residents to hospitals with health complaints.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/2012-09-12/feds-pipe-wall-in-refinery-fire-was-thin-as-penny>

2. ***September 12, Associated Press*** – (Alaska) **SE Alaska: gas spill from fuel barge leaves sheen.** An Alaska spokesman said a gasoline spill from a fuel barge being transported near the southeast Alaska community of Hoonah caused a sheen on the water, the Associated Press reported September 12. A State Environmental Conservation Department spokesman said the crew of a tug transporting the Kirby Offshore Marine barge Leo noticed the sheen. They traced it to a 2-inch fracture between the bulkhead of a raised cargo tank and the barge deck. It is not known how much gasoline spilled. The affected tank contained more than 340,000 gallons. A spokesman said a temporary seal was put on the fracture and a small quantity of fuel still leaking is being contained on the barge deck. The spokesman said Kirby is developing a plan to transfer fuel from the affected tank to another tank on the barge.
Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/2012/09/12/4814925/se-alaska-gas-spill-from-fuel.html>
3. ***September 12, Nextgov*** – (National) **Electromagnetic pulse could knock out U.S. power grid.** U.S. power grids and other civilian infrastructure are not prepared for electromagnetic pulses (EMP) that could result from weapons or violent space weather, according to testimony at a Congressional subcommittee hearing September 12. Panelists at the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies, told the Chairman there were serious flaws in the nation's infrastructure that could allow for EMP events to shut down power and communications for extended periods. EMP disruptions and attacks can be triggered by various events, including high-altitude or low-altitude nuclear weapons detonations, locally based radio frequency weapons, and solar weather. One of the largest impacts from an EMP-based disruption was in Quebec, Canada in 1989, when nearly 6 million people lost power because of a geomagnetic storm. A spokesman with the Homeland Security Department's National Protection and Programs

Direktorate said DHS was working with federal agencies on contingency plans for an EMP event. He said the Federal Emergency Management Agency was establishing lines of communication with key agencies in case an EMP event occurs, and that the Homeland Security Secretary commissioned a report in 2011 to study the impact of space-based EMP attacks.

Source: <http://www.nextgov.com/defense/2012/09/electromagnetic-pulse-could-knock-out-us-power-grid/58069/>

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Chemical Industry Sector

4. ***September 13, Milwaukee-Wisconsin Journal Sentinel*** – (Wisconsin) **Testing begins on chemicals in abandoned Slinger factory.** September 13, a federal emergency response team began testing samples of hazardous chemicals collected from 116 containers of all sizes inside an abandoned metal plating factory in Slinger, Wisconsin. Later September 13 and 14, the crew planned to begin sorting the chemicals, separating acids from caustic solutions, so they can be prepared for shipping and disposal the week of September 17, said the on-scene coordinator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund program in Chicago. Air monitoring equipment was placed in the neighborhood around the former Niphos Coatings factory to warn if chemicals are released to the air during the cleanup, he said. By the weekend of September 15, contractors will begin combining contents of containers to consolidate the hazardous substances into a smaller number of containers. Investigators found at least two extremely hazardous chemicals — nitric acid and sodium cyanide. Other hazardous and toxic chemicals discovered were nickel sulfate, used to plate metal products with a nickel finish, copper cyanide, and hydrochloric acid. Niphos Coatings closed in March 2010.

Source: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/ozwash/testing-begins-on-chemicals-in-abandoned-slinger-factory-ua6rmkt-169630386.html>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

5. ***September 11, Chattanooga Times Free Press*** – (Tennessee) **Two nuke plants saw unplanned reactor shutdowns last month.** The Sequoyah and Watts Bar nuclear power plants in Tennessee both had electrical problems that caused the power plants to scram during August, a Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) spokesman said, according to the Chattanooga Times-Free Press September 11. In the shutdowns, the reactors — Unit 1 at Watts Bar and Unit 2 at Sequoyah — functioned as they were designed to, and neither the plants nor the workers or public were put at risk. Sequoyah tripped August 16 following an electrical short in one of the four reactor coolant pumps. It was

returned to power August 18. Watts Bar shut down August 28 when a worker inadvertently caused a fault in one of the unit's instrumentation systems by plugging in a testing device that was incorrectly calibrated. The reactor was returned to power August 30. But having two local reactors quit in the same short time period is unusual, and unplanned outages can create difficulties for a utility, the spokesman acknowledged. While the reactors are not generating power, even for just a few hours or days, TVA must increase power generation at other plants and sometimes bring idled plants online.

Source: <http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2012/sep/11/9-11-b1-two-nuke-plants-shut-down-last-month/>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. ***September 13, Softpedia – (International) Page: Critical limited edition malware targets defense industry.*** Researchers analyzed a piece of malware called Page. They found the critical limited edition malware is masqueraded as a PDF file and sent out to companies in the aviation defense industry. When victims open the apparently innocent PDF file, they are presented with an invitation to an upcoming industry event. While the user views the invitation, a vulnerability in collab.hetlcon() is exploited to create and execute a file. Once it is executed, the file drops a DLL, which opens a backdoor at TCP port 49163 and initiates network communications, Fire Eye experts explained.
Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Page-Critical-Limited-Edition-Malware-Targets-Defense-Industry-291955.shtml>
7. ***September 13, Global Security Newswire – (National) DOE, NNSA management faults bolster nuclear risks, auditors warn.*** Nuclear arms operations in the United States face greater defensive vulnerabilities and a higher potential for accidents as a result of shortcomings in how the Energy Department and the National Nuclear Security Administration oversee the private firms that manage atomic complex sites, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) said in a report published September 12. The Energy Department has moved to strengthen efforts against potential atomic mishaps in response to both historical and newer hazardous events, but personnel at scientific facilities and elsewhere have suggested the management initiatives are overextended and unnecessarily meddlesome, auditors wrote in the document. The department responded by scaling back internal rules, but Congressional investigators in April said the effort's achievements were uncertain due to a failure to assess the degree to which older rules had interfered with activities, the GAO officials

said.

Source: <http://www.nti.org/gsn/article/nnsa-management-faults-bolster-risks-auditors-say/>

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Banking and Finance Sector

8. ***September 13, Softpedia*** – (International) **Visa to introduce point-to-point encryption service to payment terminals.** At the end of August, Visa revealed its plans to introduce a new point-to-point encryption (P2PE) service called Visa Merchant Data Secure, Softpedia reported September 13. The service — which will be made available at the beginning of 2013 — will aim at securing payment terminals and other critical systems across the industry. The P2PE technology will allow merchants to protect sensitive cardholder information by encrypting data within the payment-processing environment. The encryption keys will be guarded by Visa, the gateway, or the firm that acquires the service. According to a member of the Visa Risk Group, the new service is not required yet, but it is a tenet of the PCI Data Security Standard.
Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Visa-to-Introduce-Point-to-Point-Encryption-Service-to-Payment-Terminals-291895.shtml>
9. ***September 13, KTLA 5 Los Angeles*** – (California) **Bank manager's boyfriend arrested in fake bomb robbery.** A man was arrested in connection with a bank robbery in Los Angeles during which the manager said she was kidnapped and forced to rob her own bank while wearing what she thought was a bomb, KTLA 5 Los Angeles reported September 13. The man was taken into custody the day after the September 5 heist. He was charged with conspiracy and robbery. There were unconfirmed reports that he was romantically involved with the bank manager. Police did not release any further details, saying the investigation was ongoing.
Source: <http://www.ktla.com/news/landing/ktla-east-la-bank-robbery,0,986798.story>
10. ***September 12, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin*** – (California) **Ten arrested in loan modification scam.** Ten people who allegedly preyed on homeowners' fears due to the housing market crisis were arrested by federal agents September 12 after they were linked to a loan modification scam that authorities say bilked thousands of distressed homeowners out of at least \$7 million. The alleged scam, which investigators said made false promises and guarantees of the group's ability to provide homeowners loan modifications, was run out of 21st Century Real Estate Investment Corp. in Rancho Cucamonga, California, according to a news release from the U.S. attorney office in Los Angeles. More than 4,000 people were victimized by the scammers between June 2008 and December 2009, authorities said. 21st Century made false promises and guarantees about the group's ability to modify loans with mortgage lenders, falsely claimed that it was operating a U.S. government-sponsored program, and instructed home owners to cease communication with mortgage lenders and instead go through the company, the indictment alleged. The suspects were arraigned September 12 in court on nine felony counts, including five counts of mail fraud, three counts of wire fraud, and one count of conspiracy. Each count in the indictment carries a maximum

penalty of 20 years of imprisonment.

Source: http://www.dailybulletin.com/ci_21529670/ten-arrested-loan-modification-scam

11. ***September 12, Associated Press*** – (Kansas; Oklahoma) **Feds charge 7 in \$132 million investment scheme.** The federal government indicted seven men who allegedly cheated investors out of \$132 million with false promises and phony reports about companies that leased drilling rigs and related businesses, the Associated Press reported September 12. The U.S. attorney's office in Wichita, Kansas, announced the indictment. The defendants are charged with mail fraud, wire fraud, and money laundering, among other counts. Six of the men were residents of Kansas, and one of Oklahoma.
Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/2012/09/12/4813627/feds-charge-7-in-132-million-investment.html>

12. ***September 12, Los Angeles Times*** – (California) **Robbery suspects toss cash into air during pursuit.** A pair of bank robbery suspects September 12 led cops on a bizarre, dangerous pursuit in Los Angeles, hurling fistfuls of stolen cash from their car in a failed getaway bid that sent hundreds of people scrambling into the path of oncoming police cars as they lunged after the flying bills. Four armed men held up a Bank of America branch and fled in a SUV that was reported stolen hours earlier, police said. Shortly after a police pursuit began, two of the men bailed from the vehicle but were taken into custody, said a spokesman for the sheriff's department. As the men sped through congested neighborhoods, one suspect threw loose bills from the vehicle's window. As he continued tossing the money in intermittent bursts, people in the area took to the curbs. The suspect waited until the car reached corners with large gatherings of people before sending more plumes of bills out the window, seemingly to maximize the number of people who would scramble into the street. Sheriff's deputies were forced to slow and swerve to avoid hitting people. With so many people following their escapade, the streets became congested with cars and pedestrians. As they tried to navigate along a clogged street, the SUV became trapped behind a truck. Sheriff's deputies then swarmed the vehicle and pulled the suspects out.
Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-bank-robbery-20120912,0,6072960.story>

13. ***September 11, WWBT 12 Richmond*** – (Virginia) **Police search for woman accused in 4 Chesterfield bank robberies.** Chesterfield, Virginia police are searching for a serial bank robber who threatened a clerk with a bomb during her most recent heist, WWBT 12 Richmond reported September 11. Investigators said the woman's crime spree has spanned more than a month and, in most cases, she wears a disguise. Covered in a scarf and sunglasses July 12 at a Wells Fargo Bank, investigators said she passed a teller a note demanding money. Police said she struck two other banks on that same road in August. August 6, the woman concealed her face in a robbery at the Bank of Southside Virginia. A week later, she is accused of donning a wig in a hold up at the Virginia Commonwealth Bank. "In the first three (bank robberies) she displayed a firearm. She didn't threaten anyone with a firearm, but she made it clear that she had a firearm," said a Chesterfield police lieutenant. In the most recent robbery, investigators said the

suspect brought in a suspicious-looking package and told employees it was a bomb September 7 at the Virginia Credit Union.

Source: <http://www.nbc12.com/story/19507794/police-search-for-woman-accused-in-4-chesterfield-bank-robberies>

14. ***September 11, WFOR 4 Miami*** – (Florida) **Pembroke Pines police arrest suspect in multiple bank robberies.** Multiple law enforcement agencies were set to announce the arrest of a suspect they believed is responsible for at least four bank robberies in south Florida and other States, WFOR 4 Miami reported September 11. The robber wore a polo shirt in most of the heists he is accused of pulling off. He also used disguises including a dark wig. Pembroke Pines police, Miramar police, and the FBI assisted in the arrest of the suspect. Law enforcement said the robber allegedly struck a Wells Fargo in Pembroke Pines as well as a Chase Bank in Miramar September 11. The other two bank robberies connected to the suspects happened at a Bank Atlantic August 29, and at a Chase Bank September 4. A police captain said when officers took the suspect down, he had on a bulletproof vest and was carrying a weapon.

Source: <http://miami.cbslocal.com/2012/09/11/pembroke-pines-police-arrest-suspect-in-multiple-bank-robberies/>

15. ***September 10, Associated Press*** – (Georgia; International) **Counterfeit bills from South America flooding US.** Counterfeit money smuggled into the United States from Peru is continuing to find its way to Georgia, the Associated Press reported September 10. The bills are being smuggled from South America a year after authorities broke up a ring that flooded the Athens, Georgia area with the fake money, the Athens Banner-Herald reported. Details of the South American counterfeiting scheme were revealed when a man pleaded guilty the week of September 3 in court in Athens on a charge of possession of counterfeit currency. Peru has become the world's counterfeiting capital, the Banner-Herald reported. Peruvian counterfeiters produce about 17 percent of all fake currency circulating in the United States, authorities said.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/Counterfeit-bills-from-South-America-flooding-US-3852812.php>

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Transportation Sector

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Postal and Shipping Sector

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Agriculture and Food Sector

16. ***September 12, U.S. Food and Drug Administration – (National) Whole Foods Market recalls cheese in 21 states and Washington, D.C. because of possible health risk.*** Whole Foods Market announced that it is recalling ricotta salata sold in 21 States and Washington, D.C., that came from its supplier Forever Cheese Inc. of Long Island City, New York. Forever Cheese recalled this cheese product because it may be contaminated with Listeria monocytogenes, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration reported September 12. Fourteen illnesses have been reported that may be associated with the Frescolina recall.
Source: <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm319304.htm>
17. ***September 12, Food Safety News – (Iowa) Employee of egg farm linked to 2010 Salmonella outbreak tried to bribe USDA Inspector.*** A former manager at the Iowa farm responsible for the largest egg recall in history and the 2010 Salmonella outbreak that sickened nearly 2,000 people will plead guilty to conspiring to bribe a federal inspector to overlook health violations at the facility, Food Safety News reported September 12. A former employee of Wright County Egg was accused of authorizing another worker to give \$300 to an inspector from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in a complaint filed September 11 in the U.S. District Court of Northern Iowa. The funds were intended to convince the USDA official to allow the sale of eggs that had been held after failing to meet agency standards, according to the complaint. He allegedly authorized the release of these funds August 12, 2010, the day before the first of three egg recalls for potential Salmonella contamination was announced by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Five days later, the Wright County recall was expanded to include 380,000 shelled eggs. August 20, DeCoster's Hillandale Farms recalled about 170,000 of its eggs, bringing the total number of recalled eggs to 550 million. In addition to trying to distribute sub-standard eggs for sale to consumers, the suspect was accused of attempting to label the facility's eggs with a higher grade level than the one awarded to them by USDA. He allegedly pushed for "the inclusion of labeling falsely indicating the eggs met a quality grade standard under rules promulgated by the USDA," and "the omission of labeling to indicate the eggs ... could not be lawfully sold." He agreed to plead guilty at a hearing September 12.
Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/09/employee-of-egg-farm-linked-to-2010-salmonella-outbreak-tried-to-bribe-usda-inspector/#.UFHbvK66TIY>
18. ***September 10, Associated Press – (California) USDA buying meat again from Calif. slaughterhouse.*** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is buying meat again from a Central California slaughterhouse that was at the center of an animal cruelty investigation. A statement the USDA issued September 10 said that Central Valley Meat Co.'s improved oversight for animal welfare prompted the government to reinstate purchases for federal feeding programs from the Hanford facility. Officials with the Food Safety and Inspection Service concluded the week of September 3 that there was no evidence of sick cattle entering the food supply after an undercover video showed workers kicking and shocking downed cattle to herd them to slaughter. The USDA will conduct quarterly audits at the company until it successfully completes four audits in a row. The government suspended its purchases in August after seeing the

video recorded by the animal welfare organization Compassion Over Killing.
Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/2012/09/10/4806894/usda-buying-meat-again-from-calif.html>

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Water Sector

19. ***September 13, Associated Press*** – (California) **Riverside County declares state of emergency.** Riverside County, California, declared a state of emergency after severe flooding forced hundreds of people from their homes September 12 so they can apply for state and federal money to help with cleanup and rebuilding costs. Eleven homes were without power and people relied on bottled water in Duroville, a mobile home park. County officials said they plan to ship water to the community. Heavy rains sent water rushing into low-lying areas. Much of the water drained or flowed away from Duroville toward the nearby Salton Sea, but troubled spots remained. One of the two water pumps at the mobile home park damaged by the flooding was repaired and authorities checked to see if the sewer system was compromised.
Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_21533469/riverside-county-declares-state-emergency
20. ***September 12, Associated Press*** – (New Jersey) **Water turns brown at Newark Airport.** Newark, New Jersey officials were investigating the cause of an apparent problem with the water supply in and around Newark Liberty International Airport, the Associated Press reported. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey issued an alert September 12 that brown-colored water was coming into the airport's terminals and other buildings from public utility sources. Airport travelers were being urged to use bottled water. Newark city officials said there was no evidence that the water is unsafe to drink. The city's water and sewer utilities agency said they were flushing out water pipes at fire hydrants to try and eliminate the discoloration.
Source: <http://www.njherald.com/story/19525667/water-turns-brown-at-newark-airport>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

21. ***September 13, Associated Press*** – (Utah) **Utah agency extends deadline for data breach victims.** The Utah Department of Health extended the deadline for victims of a massive data breach to receive identity protection, the Associated Press reported September 13. State officials announced in May that hackers broke into a government server and stole the personal information of about 780,000 people, including the Social Security numbers of about 280,000. The agency said that those whose Social Security numbers were stolen now have until September 30 to register for free credit monitoring. Health department officials said that only about 20 percent of victims have so far enrolled for the service.
Source: <http://www.standard.net/stories/2012/09/13/utah-agency-extends-deadline-data-breach-victims>

22. *September 12, Reuters* – (Florida) **U.S. revoking 2 CVS stores' controlled substance licenses.** The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) revoked the controlled substance licenses of two CVS Caremark Corp drugstores in Sanford, Florida, as part of a government crackdown on potentially addictive painkillers, especially oxycodone, according to a court filing, Reuters reported September 12. The DEA alleged the two stores were inappropriately filling prescriptions for oxycodone, and also had suspicious sales of other controlled substances. CVS contends that the high volume of oxycodone and other prescription painkillers from the two stores arose because they were busy pharmacies, being close to Interstate Highway 4 — with one store operating 24 hours a day. The license revocations will take effect 30 days from the date the order is published in the Federal Register, according to the filing.

Source: <http://whtc.com/news/articles/2012/sep/12/dea-revokes-controlled-substance-licenses-of-two-cvs-drugstores/>

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Government Facilities Sector

23. *September 13, Washington Post* – (International) **Protests sweep through Muslim world despite U.S. appeal for calm.** The U.S. Secretary of State took strong steps September 13 to distance the U.S. Government from a movie that has sparked protests and violence throughout the Muslim world. In Tripoli, Libya, authorities said a number of people suspected of involvement in an attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi that killed the U.S. Ambassador and three other U.S. officials were detained by security forces. September 13, in Sanaa, Yemen, hundreds of demonstrators converged on a usually sealed-off street in front of the U.S. Embassy for a protest that also turned violent, witnesses said. A State Department spokeswoman said there had been “a small breach of the compound perimeter but no breach of embassy buildings” in Sanaa. She said Yemeni security forces were “in the process of restoring order”. Smaller anti-American protests were reported in Iran and Bangladesh. In Dhaka, the Bangladeshi capital, about 100 demonstrators burned an American flag September 13 and chanted slogans. They called for more protests September 14 and said the U.S. Embassy could be the target. Bangladeshi police said security at the embassy was being enhanced. In Tehran, anti-American protesters gathered outside the Swiss Embassy, which represents U.S. interests in Iran.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/us-embassy-in-yemen-stormed-other-embassies-still-under-siege/2012/09/13/ad65ce7e-fd9b-11e1-a31e-804fccb658f9_story.html

24. *September 13, Reuters* – (International) **U.S. Consulate in Berlin evacuated in false alarm.** German authorities evacuated part of the United States consulate in Berlin September 14 when an employee experienced breathing difficulties after handling a passport, but police said they could find no suspicious substances. Police investigators in chemical protection suits and masks searched the building but pronounced it safe for staff to return to work after several hours. An employee at the visa section had reported breathing difficulties and a metallic taste in her mouth after opening a passport handed to her by a male visitor, believed to be Albanian, police said. The alarm came amid

attacks on U.S. embassy and consulate buildings across the Middle East.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/09/13/us-germany-usa-consulate-idUSBRE88C0KG20120913>

25. ***September 13, Baltimore Sun*** – (Maryland) **Man shot on Morgan State campus.** Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland, was placed on emergency lockdown and classes were canceled September 12 after a man was shot on campus. Many students had just gotten out of class for the day, and others were preparing for evening lectures when gunfire rang out in Morgan's student center. A message sent through Morgan's campus alert system soon aired a warning. The victim was in critical but stable condition. He was not a student, according to a university spokesman, and officials do not believe the shooter was either. The assailant remained at large. The university spokesman emphasized the shooting was not a random act, and he said the university took the precaution of "combing every building on campus."
- Source: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/breaking/bs-md-morgan-state-shooting-20120912,0,875090.story>
26. ***September 12, Associated Press*** – (Vermont) **Vt. police call bomb threat domestic terrorism.** A false report of bombs and a gunman on the way to Montpelier High School September 12 is linked to similar threats last spring and is considered an act of domestic terrorism, Montpelier, Vermont police said. The Montpelier High School was locked down after a phone caller reported shortly before noon that a gunman was en route. The threat included multiple bombs. Police determined the threat was a hoax, similar to other false threats made April 5, and the lockdown was cancelled about 45 minutes later, authorities said. The threats are being made through computer networks involving a host of Internet and landline service providers. In April, the Montpelier Police Department issued a number of subpoenas in the United States and Europe. A suspect or suspects have been identified in Europe. The case is being handled by federal authorities, working with foreign law enforcement in that country, police said.
- Source: <http://www.boston.com/news/education/2012/09/12/vermont-high-school-lockdown-over/CG4wtW6j1jPUFNNTclJXnN/story.html>
27. ***September 12, FierceGovernmentIT*** – (National) **NTIA IT security ‘significantly’ deficient, says OIG.** Information technology systems at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) have significant deficiencies, according to a September 7 report from the Commerce Department Office of Inspector General (OIG), FierceGovernmentIT reported September 12. Among the problems are poor security categorizations, weak software and hardware inventory practices, lacking remediation of security problems, mismanaged IT security personnel, and deficient IT security policies and procedures. Report authors found five miscategorized NTIA systems that should have been categorized at a higher security impact level. Without a solid understanding of its assets, NTIA cannot accurately determine risks posed to the system and select appropriate security controls, says the OIG. The agency failed to properly identify all of its hardware and software components. Auditors identified 44 servers and 2 operating systems that were not listed in NTIA's official inventory. They found frequent instances of unsupported and outdated software, and unauthorized movies and games associated with peer-to-peer

file sharing. The report recommends that system owners and NTIA officials identify and categorize all “information types that are processed, stored, or transmitted by each system,” develop and maintain an accurate inventory, assess and implement IT security controls, and follow NTIA security policies.

Source: <http://www.fiercegovernmentit.com/story/ntia-it-security-significantly-deficient-says-oig/2012-09-12>

28. ***September 12, KDFW 4 Dallas-Fort Worth – (Texas) Lab mishap sends students to hospital.*** A mishap in a biology class at an Arlington, Texas high school sent several students and their teacher to the hospital September 12. Students in the lab said they were working on an experiment to test for proteins and amino acids. It involved mixing several chemicals. The teacher opened a vial under a vent hood and it caused an unexpected reaction that released fumes that smelled like burning chemicals, they said. The teacher and five students were overcome by nausea, dizziness, and headaches. They were taken to the hospital for evaluation. The rest of the class was evacuated. School officials also moved students from seven other nearby classrooms to keep them from being exposed to the fumes. An Arlington Fire Department HAZMAT crew was called to make sure the rooms would be safe for class September 13.
Source: <http://www.myfoxdfw.com/story/19528834/lab-mishap-sends-students-to-hospital>

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Emergency Services Sector

29. ***September 13, Effingham Daily News – (Illinois) 911 centers struggle with communications.*** Officials in Effingham County, Illinois, continue to wrestle with the long-standing issue of radio interoperability for police officers, Effingham Daily News reported September 13. At least one member of the county’s Emergency Telephone System (9-1-1) board believes now is not the time to drop the issue. In a statement read at a September 11 board meeting, he proposed his solution to the problem that has existed since the fall of 2011, when Effingham city police implemented the STARCOM radio system. Since then, Effingham County sheriff’s deputies have repeatedly complained they cannot effectively communicate with city police in field situations that are potentially dangerous for police officers. The board member proposed allowing an existing patch to operate for 2 more weeks. In the meantime, he said, a radio expert at Barbeck Communications would try to make the patch work better. The board will hold a special meeting September 26 to discuss the effectiveness of the patch.
Source: <http://effinghamdailynews.com/local/x72183702/911-centers-struggle-with-communications>

30. ***September 13, Associated Press – (Massachusetts) Lawyers expect appeals in Mass. crime lab case.*** The Associated Press reported September 13 that revelations by a chemist that she was in charge of quality control at a Massachusetts crime lab that was shut down by State police in August because of her alleged mishandling of drug

samples could lead to large numbers of drug convictions being challenged, some defense attorneys said. State police closed the lab August 30 after their investigation showed the chemist failed to follow testing protocols and may have deliberately mishandled drug samples. A tally of her cases turned over by State police to defense attorneys and prosecutors shows she was involved in testing more than 50,000 drug samples covering approximately 34,000 defendants during her tenure at the lab, from 2003-2012. State police said they do not know how many samples may have been tainted, but lawyers said they expect legal challenges because of the scandal.

Source: <http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/2012/09/13/lawyers-expect-appeals-mass-crime-lab-case/o7pkRZOdvlakZ6ScYAkYP/story.html>

For another story, see item [3](#)

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Information Technology Sector

31. *September 13, CSO Online* – (International) **Blackhole creator releases stealthier exploit kit.** The developer of the Blackhole exploit kit has released a new version that makes it more difficult to blacklist URLs pointing to Web sites containing malware. Blackhole version 2.0 was introduced September 11 on the Russian site Malware don't need Coffee. The toolkit, which is popular among cyber criminals, contains many new features meant to avoid detection from antivirus software. Other improvements include support for Windows 8 and unspecified mobile platforms. Security experts said the most interesting new feature was the ability to generate short-term, random URLs pointing to malicious Web sites or hijacked sites that contain hacker-installed malware. Because the URLs keep changing, it is difficult for search engines, site owners, and security firms to identify malicious pages.

Source: <http://www.csionline.com/article/716093/blackhole-creator-releases-stealthier-exploit-kit>

32. *September 13, The H* – (International) **Apple closes more than 160 security holes in iTunes.** The latest update to the Windows version of Apple's iTunes media player closes an alarming number of security holes. According to the company, iTunes 10.7 for Windows addresses 163 vulnerabilities, all of which are in the WebKit browser engine used by the media player to display HTML-based pages in its iTunes Store. Apple noted these security issues could be exploited by an attacker to inject and execute arbitrary code on a victim's system.

Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Apple-closes-more-than-160-security-holes-in-iTunes-1706849.html>

33. *September 13, The Register* – (International) **Microsoft seizes Chinese dot-org to kill Nitol bot army.** Microsoft disrupted the emerging Nitol botnet and more than 500 additional strains of malware by taking control of a rogue .org Web site. The company's Operation b70 team discovered criminals were selling computers loaded with counterfeit software and malware — including malware that takes control of each machine to carry out orders from the Nitol central command server. Operation b70

uncovered the industrial-scale scam during an investigation into insecure supply chains. Microsoft blames corrupt but unnamed resellers in China. Computers in the Nitel botnet would communicate with a command server whose DNS was provided by Chinese-run 3322.org, which has been linked to malicious activity since 2008. Microsoft investigators also discovered that other servers using 3322.org, which offers its services for free, harbored more than 500 different strains of malware across more than 70,000 sub-domains. These variants included key-stroke loggers and banking trojans.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2012/09/13/botnet_takedown/

34. *September 12, Softpedia* – (International) **Researchers notice increase in pay-per-install schemes targeting Android devices.** Security firms continually reiterate that malware designed for mobile devices is far less profitable for cyber criminals than malware designed for desktop computers. However, recent investigations show mobile malware is becoming more and more profitable. ESET experts discovered a considerable increase in the number of pay-per-install campaigns that threaten Android owners.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Researchers-Notice-Increase-in-Pay-Per-Install-Schemes-Targeting-Android-Devices-291763.shtml>

35. *September 12, Dark Reading* – (International) **The data-annihilation attack is back.** The data-destroying Shamoon malware and recent wave of aggressive targeted attacks against utilities in the Middle East should serve as a wake-up call for all types of organizations to be prepared for a whole other aspect of a breach — losing data and systems to destructive hacks. Data-destruction attacks are not new, but have been rare in the past decade or so as financially motivated cyber crime and cyber espionage have been at the forefront of threats mainly focused on monetizing stolen information. Hacktivists, meanwhile, have employed data-wiping from time to time, but not in the volume or mass approach that Shamoon can accomplish. Shamoon is already being repurposed for attacking additional victims: Seculert has already discovered several Shamoon variants.

Source: <http://www.darkreading.com/advanced-threats/167901091/security/attacks-breaches/240007232/>

For more stories, see items [6](#), [8](#), [21](#), and [27](#)

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at sos@us-cert.gov or visit their Web site: <http://www.us-cert.gov>

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Web site: <https://www.it-isac.org>

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Communications Sector

See items [3](#) and [34](#)

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Commercial Facilities Sector

36. *September 13, DNAinfo.com* – (New York) **14 people, including 3 firefighters, hurt in Bronx fire.** An apartment fire in a University Heights building in New York City left 14 people, including 3 firefighters, injured September 12, the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) said. The fire broke out in a second-floor apartment, an FDNY spokesman said. More than 100 firefighters from 25 units were involved in battling it, he said. Some of the residents fled the building and several others were evacuated by firefighters. Eleven people inside the building were hurt, the spokesman said. Three of the injuries were considered serious. The three firefighters suffered minor injuries, the FDNY said. All of the victims were taken to a hospital. The fire, which was mostly contained to the second-floor apartment where it began, was brought under control about 30 minutes after it sparked, the spokesman said.

Source: <http://www.dnainfo.com/new-york/20120913/university-heights/14-people-including-3-firefighters-hurt-bronx-fire>

37. *September 13, WMFD 12 Mansfield* – (Ohio) **Meth lab sparks apartment fire, suspect arrested.** A fire September 11 in an apartment at an eight-unit apartment building in Mansfield, Ohio, led to an arrest. Police said the tenant of the apartment was suspected to have been cooking meth when the fire broke-out and gutted his apartment and damaged several adjacent units. The suspect fled but was found September 13 in a local house. Metrich, Mansfield Police, and the Allied Special Response Team raided the small house and arrested the suspect on a first-degree felony aggravated arson charge. More charges are expected. Police arrested three other people at the location where an inactive meth lab was found in the garage, along with cocaine, marijuana, and drug paraphernalia.

Source: <http://www.northcentralohio.com/local-news/single.asp?story=51906>

38. *September 12, KNXV 15 Phoenix* – (Arizona) **PD: 2 pipe bombs found in Peoria apartment complex.** Residents of a Peoria, Arizona, apartment complex were evacuated September 12 after police found two pipe bombs in one of the tenant's homes. A Peoria police spokesman said police were searching one of the apartments for narcotics when they discovered two pipe bombs. The Glendale bomb squad and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives were sent to the complex to secure the area. The bombs were removed from the home and did not appear activated. Surrounding apartments were evacuated for about 1.5 hours. Authorities said the two suspects were arrested for possession of narcotics.

Source: http://www.abc15.com/dpp/news/region_west_valley/peoria/pd-2-pipe-bombs-found-in-peoria-apartment-complex

39. *September 12, Salt Lake Tribune* – (Utah) **S. Utah flooding causes millions in damage, but no one was hurt.** The aftermath of flooding from a failed southwestern Utah earthen dike that caused an estimated \$600,000 in damage to Santa Clara, Utah strip mall businesses, the Salt Lake Tribune reported September 12. Businesses in the Town Square strip mall sustained heavy damage, as nearly 3 feet of water built up on the parking lot and then seeped inside front doors September 11. “The water’s gone, but now we have about 3 inches of mud to clean up,” the strip mall owner said. Santa Clara city officials were just beginning damage assessments as homeowners and volunteers started cleanup September 12, the day after heavy rains overwhelmed an earthen dike and sent a 2-3 foot wall of water into dozens of homes and businesses. The city manager said the Washington County community estimated at least \$3 million in damage to the dike, road surfaces and sidewalks alone. That figure is likely to grow significantly once residential and business damages are added to the tab. “Right now we have 31 homes and 12 businesses flooded,” the city manager said.
Source: <http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/54879987-78/clara-santa-wednesday-dike.html.csp>

40. *September 12, KCNC 4 Denver* – (Colorado) **Denver police arrest suspected gunman.** Police in Denver arrested a suspected gunman who had barricaded himself inside a building after he allegedly shot at officers September 12. As officers responded to investigate a report of domestic violence, the suspect shot at police. Police blocked off the surrounding streets to traffic during the standoff, which added to the already slow morning commute because of the rainy weather. Mail delivery was impacted for the 10-block area around the standoff. Postal carriers were diverted as they attempted to deliver mail later in the day. The gunman remained barricaded inside the building until he was arrested about 7.5 hours after the standoff began. Witnesses said that they believe the domestic incident started inside a nearby 7-Eleven store. The police activity forced Denver Public Schools to place three local schools on lockdown.
Source: <http://denver.cbslocal.com/2012/09/12/shots-fired-denver-schools-lockdown/>

41. *September 12, Sedalia Democrat* – (Missouri) **Possible bomb found in eastside Sedalia trailer park.** A suspect will face charges after law enforcement officials discovered a possible bomb in a vehicle September 12 at a Sedalia, Missouri, trailer park. The Pettis county sheriff said deputies arrived at Lone Pine Trailer Park to serve six arrest warrants, and a search warrant. The sheriff’s office press release stated the warrants “were in connection with a series of continuing disputes that have occurred recently in the park, which have included assaults and repeated peace disturbances involving both adults and juveniles.” In the course of their search, deputies found what officials described as a “suspicious device” and a handgun in the front seat of a car parked at the trailer park and belonging to a known felon. Officials contacted the Missouri State Highway Patrol, which dispatched a disposal crew and a bomb squad truck to the scene. The crew used a robot to examine the device, however the examination was inconclusive so a projectile attached to the robot was fired into the device. A resident at the scene said deputies evacuated residents from their homes during the event, which lasted more than 4 hours.
Source: http://www.sedaliademocrat.com/news/article_ba275d7c-fd5e-11e1-b5ea-0019bb30f31a.html

For more stories, see items [19](#), [42](#), and [44](#)

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

42. *September 13, Portland Oregonian* – (Oregon; Washington) **Hundreds asked to evacuate, prepare with wildfires growing in Washington state.** More fires flared in the Northwest, but Washington State has been hit the hardest, with nearly 150,000 acres torched, the Portland Oregonian reported September 13. The biggest complex of fires in Washington was the Wenatchee complex northeast of Leavenworth, ignited by lightning September 7. Those blazes scorched another 16,000 acres between September 12-13. Officials asked 191 households to evacuate and told residents in another 334 that they may have to leave immediately, said a spokeswoman for the fire management team. Another 209 households have been told to prepare to evacuate. The fires have created hazardous breathing conditions. Schools were open but children are not allowed outside for recess, and some sports activities were being moved to places not affected by the smoke. In Oregon, the Pole Creek fire southwest of Sisters grew nearly 270 acres September 12-13, covering nearly 4,600 acres. That fire also created smoky conditions, with the State Department of Environmental Quality advising residents to stay inside if it was too smoky in their areas. The blaze was 5 percent contained, with flames torching trees and making short runs. The cause is under investigation.

Source: http://www.oregonlive.com/pacific-northwest-news/index.ssf/2012/09/more_fires_flare_as_northwest.html

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Dams Sector

43. *September 13, Palm Springs Desert Sun* – (California) **City lays out plan to build dam.** Riverside County, California flood officials laid out a timetable to build a Cathedral City dam they hope will prevent floods such as the one that overwhelmed a stretch of the city's main roadway August 30. The Palm Springs Desert Sun reported September 13 that the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District will put the Eagle Canyon Dam project out to bid in November with construction following a few months later. Construction is expected to last 9 months. It will include the Line 43 drainage system, which will connect Eagle Canyon to the Cathedral Canyon Channel, north of East Palm Canyon Drive. The dam is planned for 405 feet above sea level and designed to hold 222 acre-feet of water and 14 acres of debris. It will cost at least \$8 million. The drainage system will be about \$4 million. Both are covered by Riverside County flood control funds.

Source: <http://www.mydesert.com/article/20120913/NEWS01/309130027/City-lays-out-plan-build-dam>

44. *September 13, KSTU 13 Salt Lake City* – (Utah) **Report recommended repairs to Santa Clara dike.** The dike that broke in Santa Clara, Utah, September 11 was rated in April 2012 as one of the top 10 dams in Washington County that needed repairs, KSTU

13 Salt Lake City reported September 13. The dam safety inspection, conducted by the division of water rights, reported the dam had a high hazard level, noting some areas that needed maintenance. The report said there were rodent borrows along the dam and that employees needed to control vegetation growing along both sides. Hundreds of volunteers were assisting in the massive cleanup effort in Santa Clara September 12. Flooding left mud and debris behind while more than a dozen businesses and about 30 homes were damaged when the dike gave way. The mayor declared the area a disaster zone and requested federal funding to help with the cleanup.

Source: <http://fox13now.com/2012/09/13/inspection-report-recommended-repairs-to-santa-clara-dike/>

45. ***September 12, WJAC 6 Johnstown – (Pennsylvania) Repairs on East Branch Dam to cost \$280M.*** A long and costly project is set to begin in a few years to repair leaks at the East Branch Dam in Elk County, Pennsylvania, WJAC 6 Johnstown reported September 12. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers noticed seepage issues a few years after it was built in 1947. The Corps held a meeting September 12 to address where the issue currently stands, and upcoming construction. Analysis of the dam since 2008 confirmed seepage paths exist through and under the dam; officials said this means long-term repairs are needed. The first construction contract for improving the access road to the dam was awarded in September 2011 and field explorations were completed March 2012 to provide information to design the cut off wall. Officials said the new instrumentation installation was completed in June. The entire project is expected to cost \$280 million with a concrete wall that will go nearly 250 feet deep into the dam. The Corps expects the project to begin in 2014 with a completion date set for 2017.

Source: <http://www.wjactv.com/news/news/repairs-east-branch-dam-cost-280m/nR9QC/>

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